GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2224
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2008
BIG DAMS AND FLOODS
Sen Smt. Minati

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has noticed that big dams are responsible for causing floods;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has conducted any study on benefits of dams, for generation of electricity, irrigation, silting of river beds, change of river course;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES(SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) & (b) The big dams are helpful in mitigation of floods, especially if dedicated flood cushion is provided in the storage. The big dams are operated on the basis of specified rule curves as per Operation Manual of Reservoir which help in flood mitigation.

(c) to (e) No specific study has been conducted by the Government on the benefits of dams, for generation of electricity, irrigation, silting of river beds, change of river course. However, big dam projects are planned after detailed investigations and conducting Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) studies to arrive at the most techno-economic viable solutions. Various alternatives are duly assessed while planning big dams.